

## Progress and frustrations for Webling at Manfeild

Oakura's Stefan Webling experienced another weekend of progress as to his driving performance but frustrations with the results at the Manfeild NZ Grand Prix meeting, the third round of the Toyota Racing Series and final round of the International section of it.

Webling, racing in the Triple X Motorsport team with the experienced Earl Bamber as his team-mate, showed promise in qualifying when he took sixth place in the first session, then third in the second session and eventually seventh in the final superpole qualifying session.

"I was fairly happy with qualifying as we made adjustments and tried various settings," said Webling.

Then came the first race, run in damp, blustery conditions on Saturday.

"I made a great start from grid 6 in the difficult conditions, and got past three cars in the first couple of laps, I then found myself leading the race after Evans, Pentus & Bamber spun off. I was quite comfortable while leading for three laps, but then in the changing conditions, under braking for the tight Toyota corner at the end of the front straight, my back brakes locked on a puddle and I sledged off the track into the soft ground. The safety car and rescue crew, soon had me back on track, but my chance of a first win in the TRS class had vanished," said Webling.

In the second race on Sunday morning, Webling was running well in fifth place when he was given a drive-through penalty for his involvement in an earlier racing incident.

Then came the Grand Prix, Webling starting from grid 7 made another great start and was up to 5<sup>th</sup> going into splash corner on the first lap, but was involved in a minor incident with Brazilian, Lucas Foresti, sending Webling off onto the in field, which dropped him to the rear of the field with slightly bent steering. Webling kept going – catching and passing two cars – but with half a dozen laps of the 35-lap race to go, he pinched a brake going into the sweeper onto the finishing straight, and Webling slid off into the dirt on the outside of the bend which brought out the yellow flag and the safety car.

"I don't know why they had to bring out the safety car, as my car wasn't damaged or anything – just stuck in the gravel etc. The race could have finished with just a yellow flag in that area. I was majorly disappointed to end my meeting in this way - the car was good and I enjoyed driving it, but luck certainly wasn't on my side at this meeting," said Webling.

"I would just like to thank all those who helped me at this, my first Grand Prix – **Team Triple X Motorsport, Miles Toyota and Horizon Energy services**. Despite the issues I had at this meeting, I felt my driving and understanding of how these cars work, made a major improvement."